



MnDOT District 7 Freight Plan

Advisory Committee Meeting 1

April 22, 2021

Welcome to the Advisory Committee

Please state your name, organization

What is one goal/outcome you have for the District 7 Freight Plan?

Use the chat box throughout the meeting:

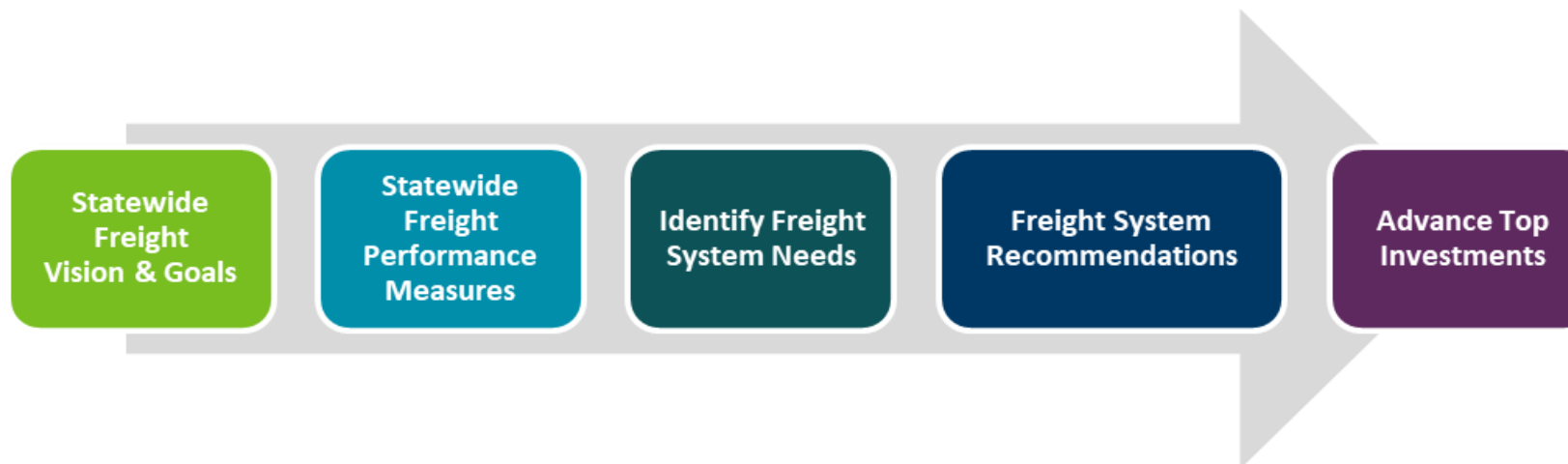
- Type name, organization
- Link resources that may improve our understanding of the system

Who We Are

- Andrew Andrusko – Project Manager with the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations
- Ronda Allis – District 7 Planning Director
- Angela Piltaver – District 7 Senior Planner
- Samuel Parker – District 7 Principal Planner
- CPCS, Zan, and SEH – Consultant staff team

MnDOT Freight Planning

- MnDOT has been working to implement the *Minnesota State Freight System and Investment Plan*
- One of the key recommendations was to work with each area of the state to create more detailed plans that would identify improvements to connect with the Minnesota Highway Freight Program.



Purpose of this Effort

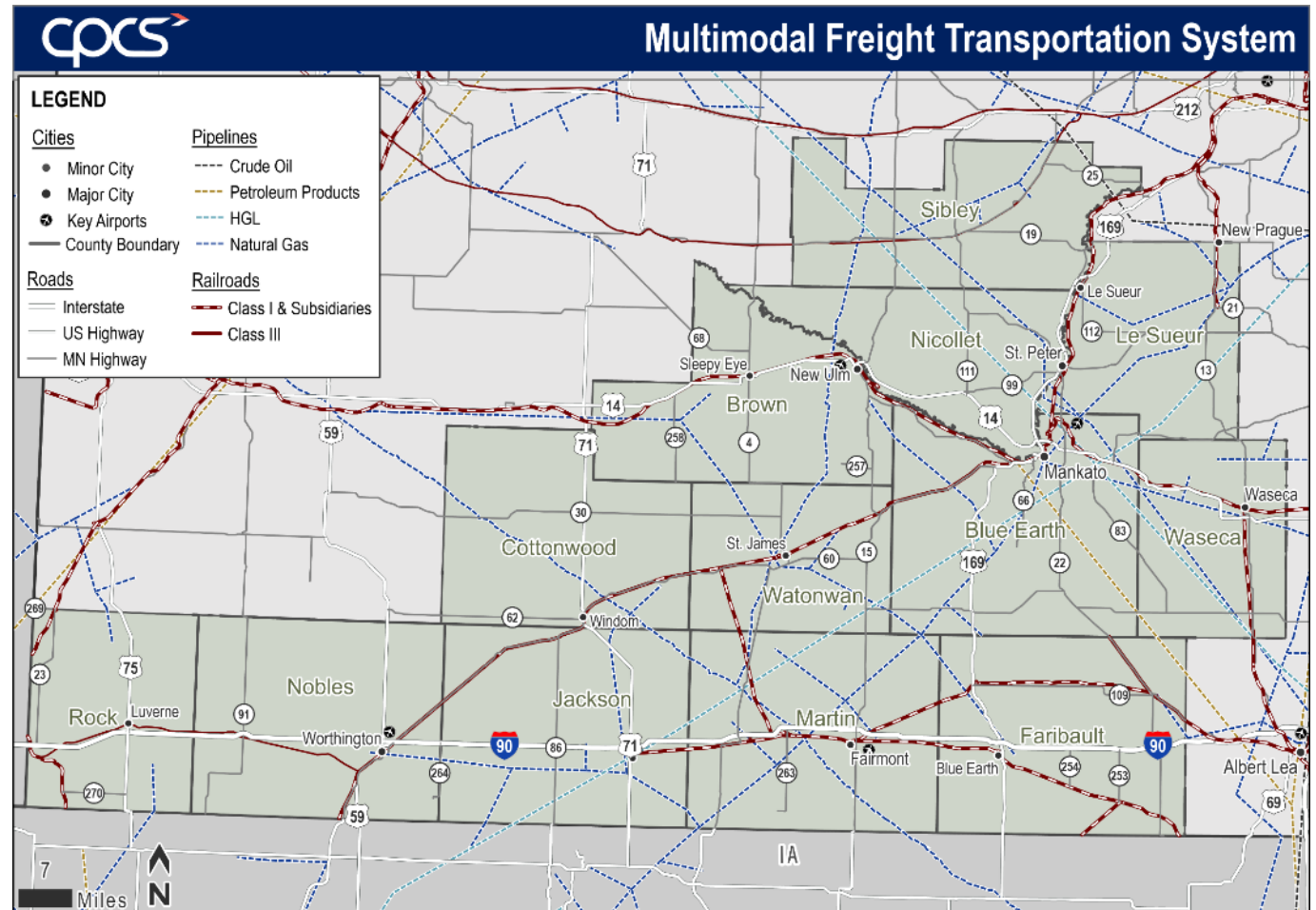
Provide a clear understanding of the multimodal freight system, how local industries use the system and their needs and issues, so MnDOT's policy and programming decisions can be better informed in the District.

The District 7 Freight Plan will:

- Provide an up-to-date assessment of freight needs and issues specific to District 7
- Provide a list of strategies to improve freight mobility in the south-central region
- Roll up data and findings into the next Statewide Freight System Plan

MnDOT District 7

- MnDOT is split up into regional districts
- District 7 includes 13 counties: Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Nobles, Rock, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan
- Duration: 12/2020 – 3/2022





Review Work Plan and Role of Advisory Committee

District 7's Freight Needs and Issues

Stakeholder Outreach

Next Steps & Discussion

Welcome to the Advisory Committee

Help us keep the “Big Picture” in mind

- Provide context on freight needs and issues, and strategic guidance
- Aid the consultants with local coordination, consultations
- Provide written or verbal comments during plan development

Looking Forward

Work will be conducted over 15 months

Meeting 1 April

- Review Working Paper 2
- Confirm Plan Goals

Meeting 2 June

- Freight system profile
- Summary of findings – needs, issues & opportunities

Meeting 3 September

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Meeting 4 January

- Review of project concepts

Meeting 5 February

- Present major findings and draft plan deliverables
- Receive feedback

Expected Work Products

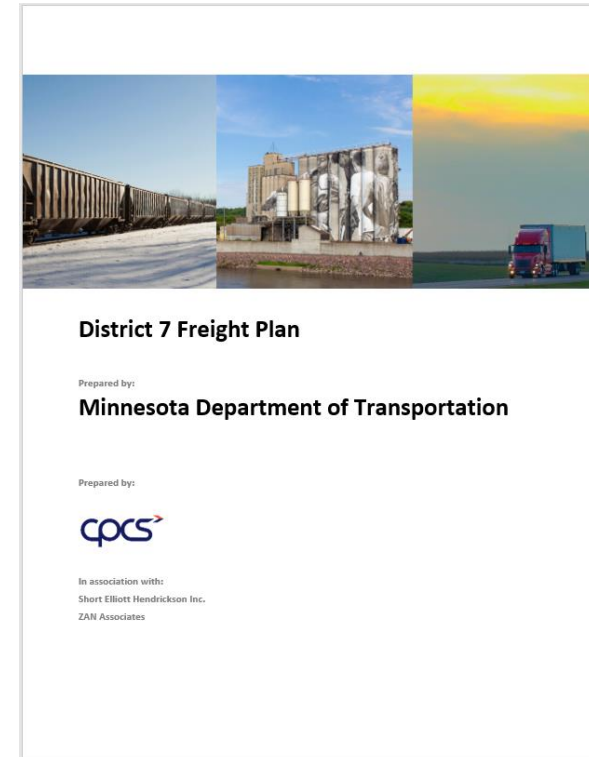
Working papers provide opportunities for comment:

6 Working Papers

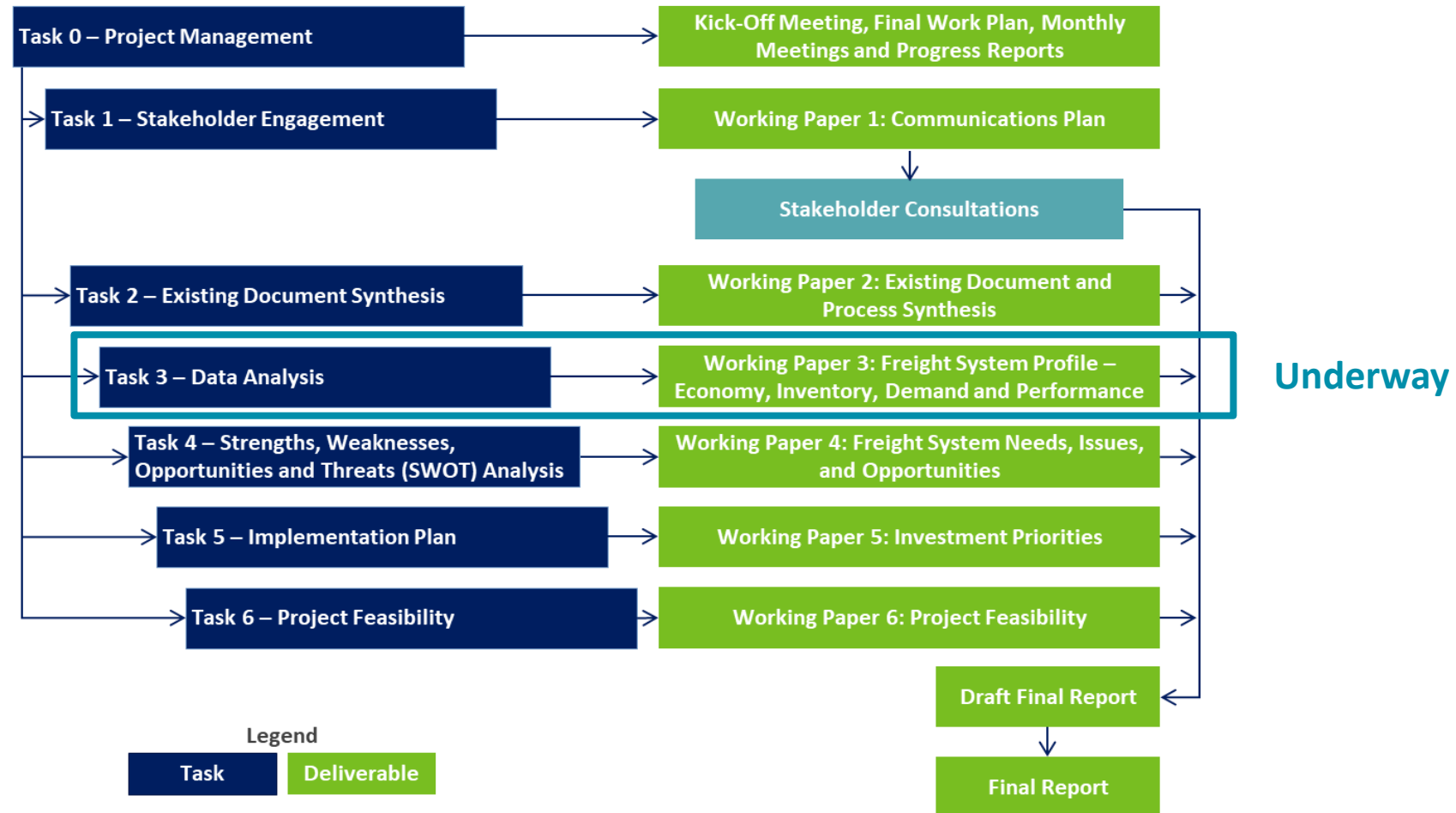
1 Executive Level Final Report

1 GIS Database

1 Stakeholder Outreach Program



Work Plan Overview



Task 1 – Stakeholder Engagement

Key Questions:

- Who are the key freight system stakeholders, and how should they be engaged?
- What are the needs and issues of these stakeholders?



Task 2 – Synthesis of Previous Plans

Key Questions:

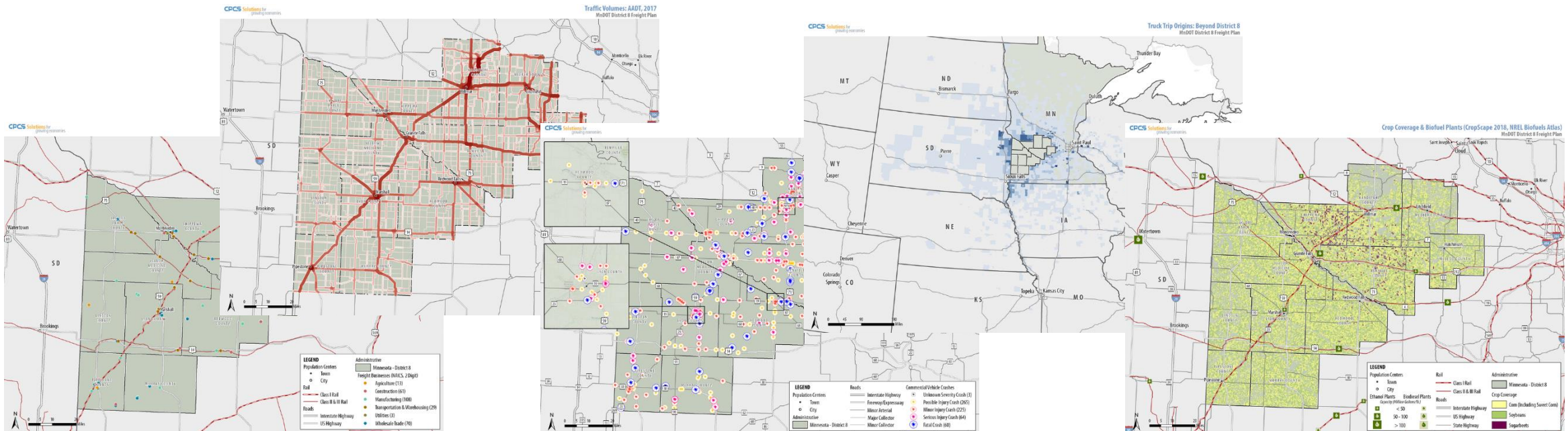
- How should previous planning processes be applied to the District?
- What findings from previous plans and studies are relevant to the District?
- What should be further explored and advanced in the District Freight Plan?



Task 3 – Data Analysis

Key Questions:

- What is the District's freight-related economic and industrial profile?
- What are the key freight infrastructure assets and corridors?
- What is the condition and performance of these freight assets?



Task 4 – SWOT Analysis

Key Questions:

- What are the District's common freight-related needs, issues, opportunities, and challenges?
- How can the District mitigate threats and weaknesses, and take advantages of strengths and opportunities?



Advisory Committee and Technical Team Meetings



Stakeholder Consultations



Online Survey



Analysis of Data



Previous Studies and Plans

Task 5 – Investment Priorities

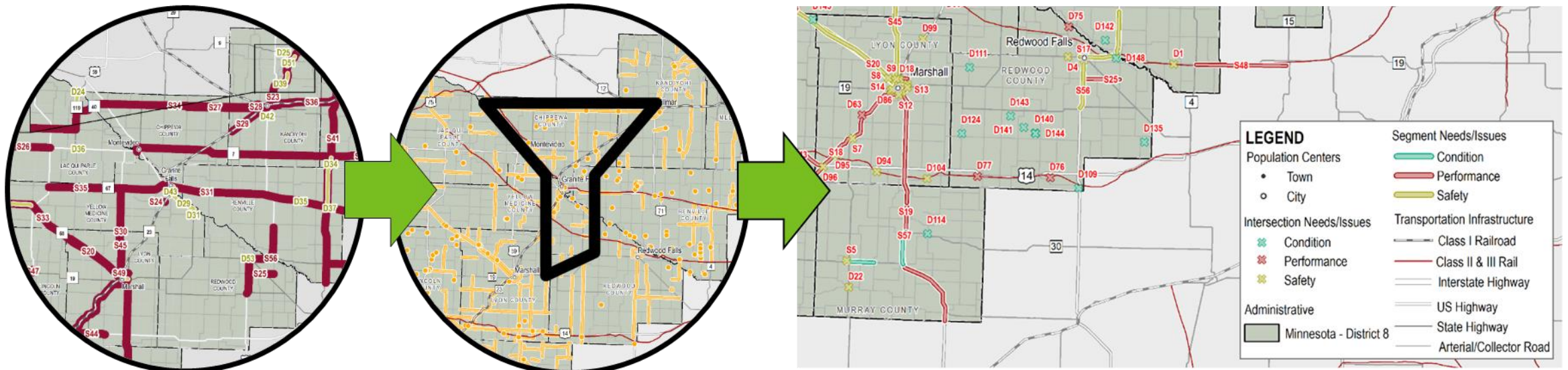
Key Questions:

- Which project concepts meet the District's goals, and address identified SWOT elements?
- Which project concepts are *not* included in programmed near-term investments?
- Which project concepts warrant advancement to pre-feasibility and scoping?

Map all needs and issues,
and programmed projects

Filter out needs and issues that overlap with programmed projects

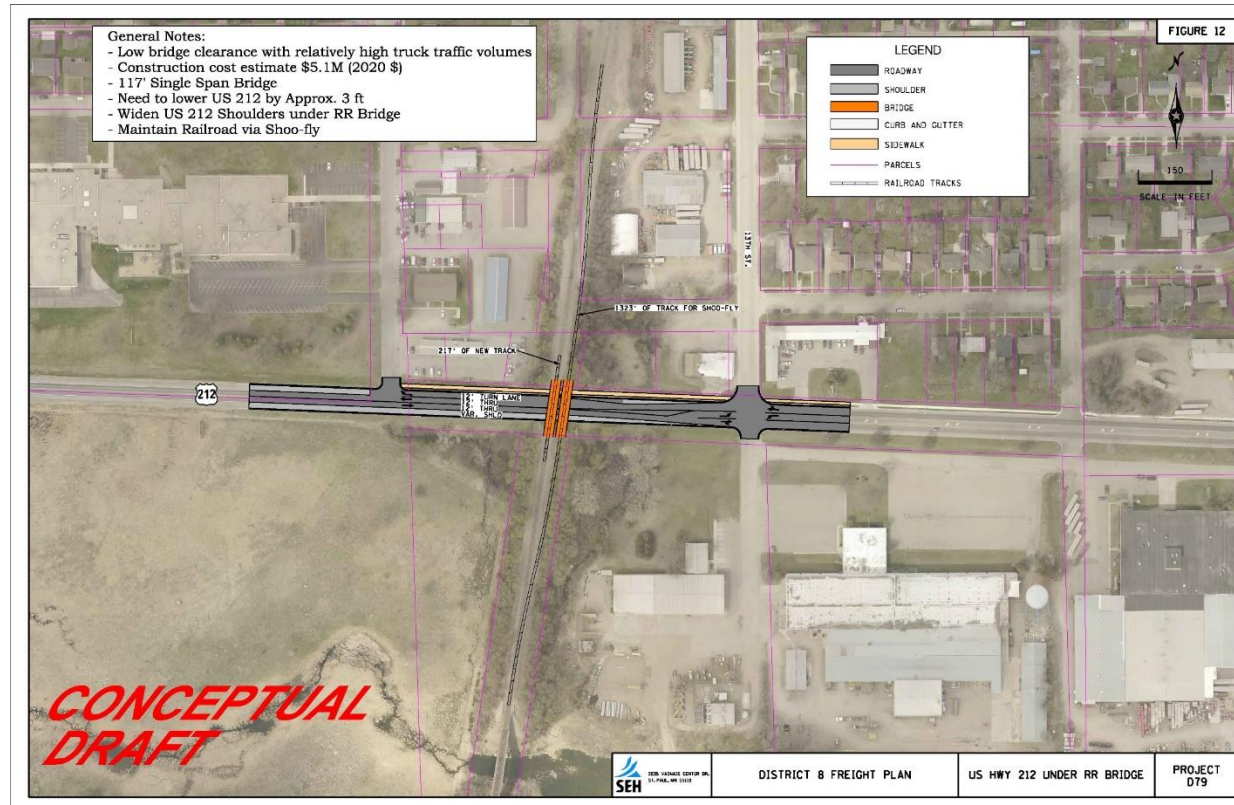
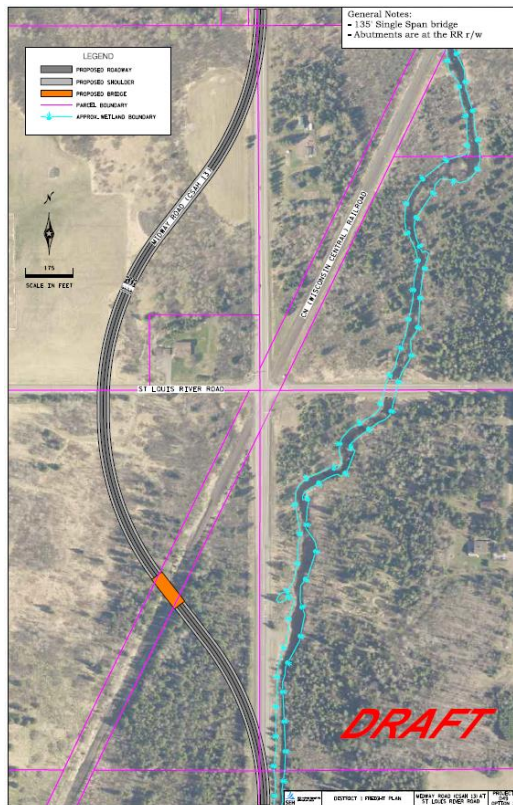
Identified gaps are inputs for the evaluation process described in following slides.



Task 6 – Project Feasibility

Key Questions:

- How feasible are the top projects concepts?
- What are the potential environmental, social, economic, and engineering challenges with each project concept?
- What are the order-of-magnitude costs of these project concepts?



Work Plan and Role of the Advisory Committee

- Questions to ask the group?
 - Is the work plan clear?
 - Which of our activities are most important to you?

Agenda

Review Work Plan and Role of Advisory Committee

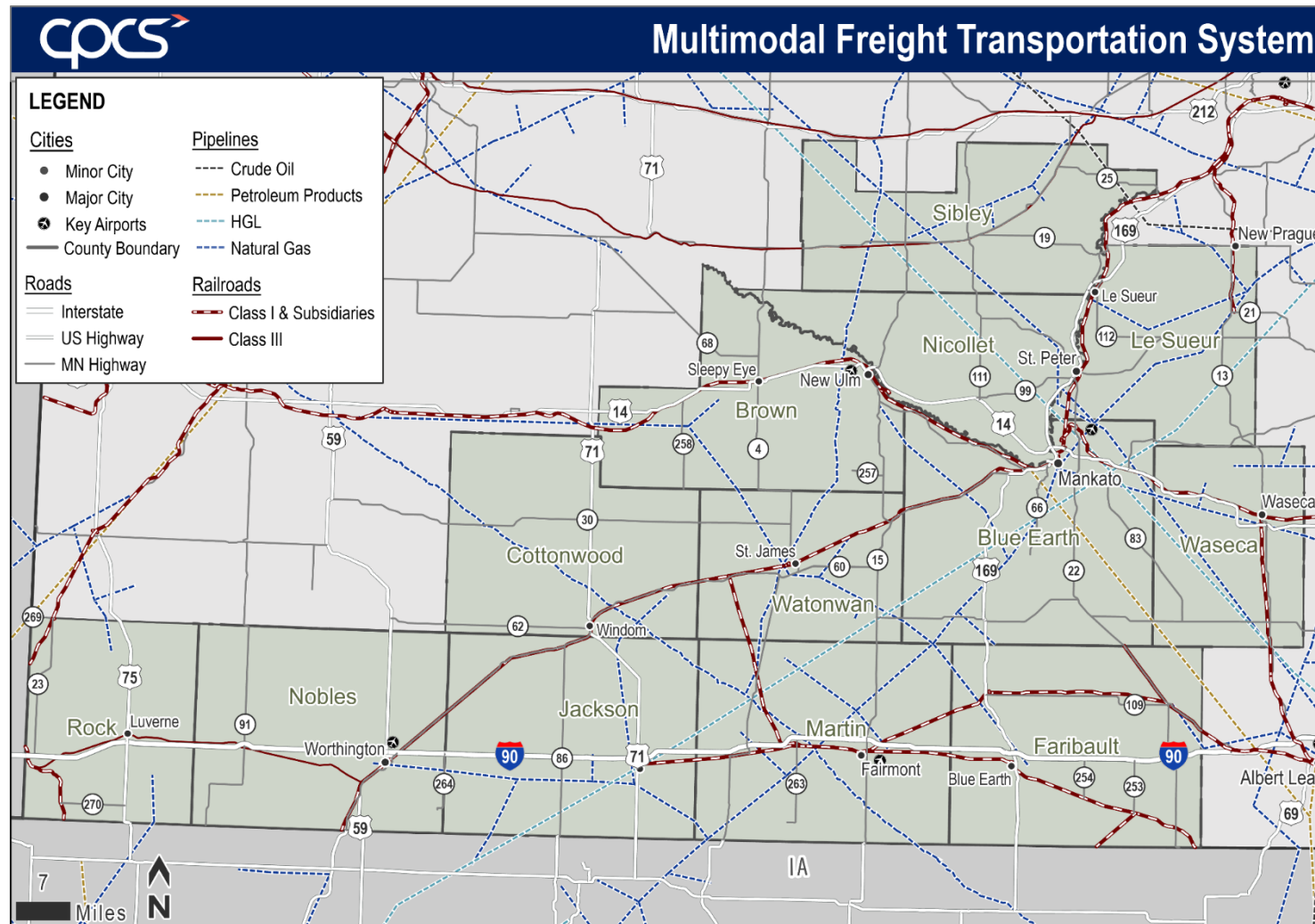


District 7's Freight Needs and Issues

Stakeholder Outreach

Next Steps & Discussion

District 7's Multimodal Freight System



Past Work and Key Issues in District 7

Prior work will inform the approach used for this plan



Plan	Agency	Year
Minnesota Statewide Freight System and Investment Plan	MnDOT	2018
Manufacturers' Perspectives on Minnesota Transportation System – District 7	MnDOT	2019
Southwest Minnesota Regional Freight Study	MnDOT	2007
Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP)	MnDOT	2017
District Safety Plan Update	MnDOT	2016
Minnesota Weight Enforcement Investment Plan	MnDOT	2018
Minnesota Statewide Truck Parking Study	MnDOT	2019
Minnesota Improvements to Highway-Rail Grade Crossings and Rail Safety	MnDOT	2014
Minnesota State Rail Plan	MnDOT	2015
Rail Grade Crossing Safety Project Selection	MnDOT	2016
Highway 60 Windom Corridor Study	MnDOT	2020
Highway 22 Corridor Study	MAPO	2018
Mankato/North Mankato Area LRTP 2045 Update	MAPO	2020
Region Nine Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	RNDC	2016
Region Nine Annual Reports	RNDC	2020
Southwest RDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	SRDC	2017
Southwest RDC Annual Report	SRDC	2020

Past Issues and Findings



Roads:

- Highway 169 is a major freight corridor in District 7 that links Mankato to the Twin Cities area.
- Pavement and bridge conditions in District 7 are a major concern of numerous stakeholders – funding is insufficient.
- With the increase in truck movements, the need to add more truck parking, address the issues concerning electronic logs, and consider additional truck size and weight capacity continues to grow.
- District 7 needs to enhance safety and education at intersections, roundabouts and j-turns. The District's Safety Plan indicated that District 7 had 57 concerning intersections.



Railroads:

- Many manufacturers and businesses in District 7 expressed the critical need for better access to rail transportation
- Containerized shipments of identity-preserved agricultural products are becoming more important for agricultural producers, but District 7 is constrained by a lack of intermodal container terminals.
- Prior grade crossing safety studies have identified 15 grade crossings in District 7 with a high (rank 8 of 10 or higher) risk rating.
- This shifting share of grain shipments to a small number of consolidated grain elevators has resulted in the closure of smaller local elevators, and has the potential to increase the length of local truck trips from field-to-elevator.

Common Recommendations from Prior Plans

Detailed recommendations will be incorporated into analyses where relevant

- Addressing truck parking needs, burdensome electronic logging regulations, and truck size and weight on key District corridors.
- Enhancing the state's approach to inclement weather and enhancing the 511 travel information system.
- Additional resources for pavement, bridge, and other infrastructure improvements.
- Providing access to intermodal rail terminals and transload facilities.
- Prioritize at-risk rail grade crossings in District 7.
- Continued support for the Minnesota Rail Service Improvement Program.

Assessment of Needs and Issues

Breakout Session

Reconvene in 15 Minutes

- What do you perceive as the top freight-related issues and needs in the District?
- Are these issues present on specific freight system corridors/facilities?
- Have you considered solutions to address these top issues?

Agenda

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District 7's Freight Needs and Issues



Stakeholder Outreach

Next Steps & Discussion

Freight Stakeholder Consultations

Freight stakeholders have an important role in assessing performance and forming recommendations for the District 7 freight system, and may serve in an implementation role

Key Activities:

- Identify stakeholders
- Develop consultation guide
- Conduct consultations – target 30 total
- Report on findings: Working Papers 3 and 4.

Stakeholder Consultations (Initial Recommendations)

Preliminary Ideas...

Manufacturers and Shippers

- Walmart
- NextEra Wind
- Wells Concrete
- Coughlin Companies
- Alumacraft
- Winco Generations
- True Value Distribution
- Coloplast
- 3M
- AGCO
- Blue Star
- Newport Labs

Rail

- UP
- CP
- Ellis & Eastern

Agriculture or Food

- Michaels Foods
- Kraft
- Crystal Valley Coop
- Dairy Farmers of America
- Christensen Farms
- CHS
- ADM
- Minnesota Soybean Processors
- Comfrey Farms
- Big Gain

Trucking / Truck Stops

- Kwik Trip
- Freyburg Truck Stop

Public Agencies

- Greater Mankato Growth
- Iowa DOT

Stakeholder Consultations

- Who else should we consider for consultations?
- Can you help us connect with key stakeholders for consultations?
- What are your questions for industry?
- Think of something later? Reach out to Eric:
eoerberhart@cpcstrans.com

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Consultant Team

At the meeting



Eric Oberhart
Project Manager



Eddie Wytkind
Project Coordinator



Chris Hiniker, AICP
Pre-Feasibility



Rebecca Lieser
Engagement Specialist